The Lord said to her in reply, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.” - Lk 10:41-42

I have to admit that the story of Jesus going to visit the two sisters, Martha and Mary is one of my favorite passages of Scripture. There are many reasons for this. For example, I am sure that many of us, if not all of us, can readily identify with the encounter as it unfolds. It is such an ordinary, homey event: after all, what could be more natural or human than going to visit a friend or family member. Then there is that domestic tension that becomes something of a spat between the two sisters: Mary seems to sit around, while Martha is doing all the work. Martha even turns to Jesus and complains (or is it nags?)...“tell her to help me”. Incidentally, we are not told anything about their brother Lazarus: perhaps he wisely kept out of things! Whatever the case, Jesus uses this whole mini domestic drama (a familiar drama that must have been repeated in history billions of times) to teach and to encourage.

Look at the dynamic again. Martha (remember, she is the one doing all the serving and the work) is not wrong: far from it! Today, if we had a visitor, especially an important one, who would not offer some refreshments and hospitality…? In fact, in the time and culture of Jesus (as is still the case in the Middle East and many other parts of the world), not to offer such a welcome to a traveler or a visitor would be unthinkable: it would go against all social customs and would be considered a gross insult. So, why does Jesus seem to chide Martha; at least just a little? (As Jesus speaks to her, I imagine him smiling lovingly at Martha and also shaking his head...again, just a little!). Martha seems to be a natural worrier: worried about so many things and now her latest worry is to make Jesus welcome. She also seems to have a bit of a short fuse as she complains about her sister: but then, worry does have a habit of shortening fuses very effectively. The same is true when we get overwhelmed with activity. Martha, we are told is “burdened” by all her work in being hospitable. In fact, the phrase in the Gospel literally says that she was “pulled about” by all her work. That certainly can sound familiar! Jesus gently tells Martha that, in the end, only one thing really matters. Perhaps our Lord is reminding her (and us, of course!) to keep things in perspective and balance. Again, worry or too much activity have a nasty habit of blowing so many things way out of proportion and numbing our ability to focus, or even of disabling our better judgment.

Perhaps too, Martha’s mistake is to think that she knows what Jesus wants: food and drink after his journey. However, Jesus really wants to visit with her and to be, we might say, spiritual food for her and to quench her spiritual thirst. Have you ever been in that situation when you have gone to visit someone just to see them; yet they have rushed off into the kitchen to fix some refreshments for you? Meanwhile, you are yelling from the family room trying to have a conversation with them. Your host is being kind and hospitable, but you have come to see them rather than to have something to eat or to drink. They think they know what you want, but this is not really the case.

Mary chose the better part (literally the “good” portion: good as in the sense of something intrinsically good or as a solid foundation) because she sits at Jesus’ feet and listens to him. Jesus can visit with her and she can visit with him. It is not right to say that Mary chose the only good thing and that Martha was wrong or chose a bad portion. No, Mary chose the better part because she listens and is still and focused first. Then, and only then, she is equipped and ready to spring into action: to be like her sister Martha. Prayer then action, or, better still, prayer leads us and guides us to action. This then might be the best lesson of all from our Gospel. It is also a timely one. Hopefully, the summer is a time when we can be a bit more like Mary and relearn the need to pause, to listen and to reflect in the Lord’s good company, before we act and get busy.

So, we need to be like Mary as well as Martha. Martha was so busy with things that she did not have time to listen to Jesus or to discover what he really wanted of her, whereas Mary sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to him. So often we too need to slow down and listen to the Lord, to sit at his feet for a while, even if it is just for five minutes a day! Well, we may feel that we are too busy to pray, but is worth remembering what Blessed Mother Theresa of Calcutta often said: “if I am really busy then I need to pray twice as hard and long.” And a final word about parish and church meetings: hopefully we have a real Mary moment or two before diving into the Martha mode. After all, we might have got it the wrong way around if we put aside Him, who is the Lord of all things for the sake of the things of the Lord…!

Fr. Anthony
~ You’re Invited ~

Rite of Candidacy and Sending
Sunday, August 7th at 4 PM - Church Reception to follow in the Parish Center

The Rite of Candidacy is where the Church formally recognizes the seminarians as a candidate for ordination to the priesthood.

Sending is the custom of gathering the seminarians of the Diocese, who have been home for the summer, to pray with the community as they head back to their seminaries for fall semester formation.

This year St. Ambrose will be hosting this important event!

Please come and share your love, your support and your prayers with Sam and 12 other seminarians as they continue on their journey to ordination.

Invite your family and friends... let’s fill the church!!

September 25th
More info to come!

Are you struggling with your emotions, a loss, an addiction, a relationship or family issues?
Counseling is available in the evenings at St. Ambrose.
A $25 donation is appreciated.
Contact Dave Dobkowski, Ph.D. at 859-4015 to make an appointment.

FOOD PANTRY STATS
The Food Pantry served 104 households in June. This included 208 adults and 193 children. As always the generosity of St. Ambrose parishioners is deeply appreciated and helpful. The ongoing need is great and all food and monetary contributions are much appreciated as we strive to feed the hungry in our community.

Beginning Friday, June 24th through September 2nd, the Church office will close at 12 noon on Fridays.

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We appreciate our advertisers who make this bulletin possible for our parish.
Visit www.stambroselatham.com/VBS to register, and pay. It’s NOT too late to sign up!

Formation will begin on Sunday, September 11, 2016 at 10:15 am. What does that mean for you?

- Because you participated in faith formation last year, you are already registered for class this year. However, if you would kindly let us know of any updates to your family information we would greatly appreciate it.
- You asked for it, we are providing it—The Edge is coming to Sunday mornings. This exciting program will be offered to students in 6th—8th grade. If you were in 5th or 6th grade last year you will automatically be placed in The Edge program.
- Please consider sharing your faith with our young parishioners. Call the Faith Formation Office to learn more about becoming a catechist.

Questions? Contact the Faith Formation Office at 785-1351 x307 or email: faithformationaa@stambroselatham.com

God is providing opportunities for them now, in our parishes and in our diocese.

God reaches out to them, to be there as they deal with hard choices and everything life will throw at them.

Please pray for our teens attending the St. Isaac Jogues Youth Conference, hosted this year at St. Ambrose.
"We Are A Tithing Parish
Following “God’s Plan for Giving”

July 3, 2016  $18,319.76
July 5, 2015  $17,078.01
July 10, 2016 $17,056.43
July 12, 2015 $16,219.55

Deepest thanks for your continued and generous support for our parish. Your gifts enable so much to be done in so many ways.

Sacraments

RECONCILIATION
Saturday, 3:00 PM or any time by appointment.

MARRIAGE
Congratulations! So that proper preparation may be made, please make an appointment with Fr. Anthony at least six months before the desired date. Either the bride or groom should be a registered parishioner of St. Ambrose parish.

BAPTISM
Congratulations! If you wish to arrange preparation for baptism, please call the Parish Office. Parents should be registered members of St. Ambrose parish.

RCIA
(Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)
For those inquiring about the Catholic Faith. Welcome! Please contact the Parish Office for program details.

VOCATION
If you are considering a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life, please contact Fr. Anthony.

THE EVANGELIST SUBSCRIPTION

Thank you for your generous response to the 2016 Bishop’s Appeal. The amount raised thus far is $137,125 with a total of 395 pledges and gifts. The vital ministries supported by this annual appeal depend on you and your generosity. Your gift helps St. Ambrose Parish pay its diocesan assessment of $172,616.

Pledge envelopes are available in the church and donations can also be made online at: www.thebishopsappeal.org

Many thanks for your support!
Fr. Anthony

The Bishop’s Appeal
Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, NY

Eucharistic Ministers
for the Sick & Homebound

Are you currently bringing the Eucharist to someone who can’t attend Mass? Our parish would like to send you to our absent brothers & sisters with all our prayers & assurances. This “new” ministry will begin on Tuesday, July 19th, and it will only take place during the 9 am Mass on Tuesdays & Thursdays. We ask that anyone bringing the sacrament to someone to place their pyx on the table provided at the FRONT (by the altar) before Mass. Before the final blessing you will be called forward, your pyx will be returned, & then sent forth with a special blessing. Thank you for being part of this beautiful ministry.

Are You Registered In The Parish?

People may consider themselves registered parishioners because they have been coming here for a while, were married here, received their sacraments here or attended St. Ambrose School. If you have not filled out a REGISTRATION FORM you are not in our census. REGISTRATION FORMS are available at the parish office (785-1351) or website www.stambroselatham.com. Thank you.
### Mass Intentions

**Monday – July 18**
- St. Camillus de Lellis
  - 6:30 AM Joseph A. Rubino by Don & Susan O’Brien
  - Richard Family by Madeleine Richard
- 9:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption

**Tuesday – July 19**
- Weekday
  - 6:30 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption
  - 9:00 AM Beatrice Dineen by Don & Susan O’Brien
- 9:00 AM Brian Schwenzfeier by Peggy & Mark Austin

**Wednesday – July 20**
- Weekday
  - 6:30 AM Carmen Medici by Wife
  - 9:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption
- 9:00 AM Thanksgiving to Blessed Virgin Mary by Mary Anne

**Thursday – July 21**
- St. Lawrence Brindisi
  - 6:30 AM Communion Svc at Our Lady of the Assumption
  - 9:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption

**Friday – July 22**
- St. Mary Magdalene
  - 6:30 AM Communion Service
- 11:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption

**Saturday – July 23**
- St. Bridget
  - 4:30 PM Deceased Members of Godfrey & Kana Families by Family
  - Priscilla Hogan by Theresa Soldani
  - Walter Deyoe by Bronson Family

**Sunday – July 24**
- 11:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption
  - 11:00 AM Richard Family by Madeleine Richard
  - 11:00 AM Joseph A. Rubino by Don & Susan O’Brien

### Liturgical Roles for Week Ending July 24, 2016

**Money Counters, Sunday, July 24th**
- Team #9 — Jannie Daggs, Valerie Gyurko, Betty Mahoney, Carolyn Chabot, Clara Aliberti

**Money Counters, Monday, July 25th**
- Team #3 — Joe Hogan, Richard Ostiguy, Rene Comtois

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<td>#1-Kimberly LaBombard</td>
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<td><strong>ALTAR SERVERS:</strong></td>
<td>Mr. Vincent Cook</td>
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<td>Theresa Kent, Jacob Frank, Evan Turcotte</td>
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<td><strong>Eucharistic Ministers:</strong></td>
<td>C. Chabot, V. Gyurko, P. Lincoln, R &amp; P Szwedzka, E. Mahoney, G. Gentile</td>
<td><strong>Eucharistic Ministers:</strong></td>
<td>MK Frederick, S. Earl, K. Matheson, M. Girard, M &amp; C Rosenthal, R. Hallock,</td>
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<td>J. Bodnar, N. Brock, R. Haggerty, C. Cameron</td>
<td><strong>USHERS:</strong></td>
<td>T. Maleski, J. Grady, F. Fraser, Volunteers</td>
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**Volunteers Needed**

- Premila / Mary Clare
- Nancy R.